

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 97
By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mrs. Letha Ottinger
Kilgore of Cocke County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Letha Ottinger Kilgore; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kilgore was an exemplary citizen who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, at 108 years of age, Mrs. Letha Ottinger Kilgore was the oldest resident of Cocke County; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Mike and Elmina Gregg Ottinger and the granddaughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Ottinger and Elijah and Sarah Gregg, Letha Ottinger Kilgore was born in a log house in the Goodwater community of Parrottsville; and

WHEREAS, as a child, she attended the one-room schools of Zion Hill and Goodwater and was a member of Oven Creek Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, despite her father's admonitions, Mrs. Kilgore had the courage and foresight to marry the love of her life, Mr. Charlie Kilgore, and at the time of his death in 1980, the couple had enjoyed 68 years of wedded bliss; and

WHEREAS, after Mr. Kilgore's death, Letha Ottinger Kilgore moved to Newport to be near her daughter; and

WHEREAS, indicative of her strength and her independent nature, Mrs. Kilgore lived alone until she was 103; she then moved to Mariner Health Care, where she lived out her final years with the remarkable grace and beauty afforded God's most precious creations; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished seamstress and quilter, Letha Ottinger Kilgore sewed clothes for each member of her family and continued to piece quilts until well past her one hundredth birthday; and

WHEREAS, Letha Ottinger Kilgore was deeply devoted to her family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Kilgore were the proud parents of Ellen Overton, Mary Owenby, Eva Smith, Sible France, Irene Wood, the late Blanche Moore, the late Louise Franklin and Jimmy Kilgore and enjoyed the love and companionship of 19 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ottinger was an active and devout member of Harned's Chapel United Methodist Church, which she served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Letha Ottinger Kilgore leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of Mrs. Letha Ottinger Kilgore, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our condolences and sympathy to Mrs. Kilgore's family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.